HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) The proposal to set up a National Commission on Women as also its terms of reference is under consideration of the Government.

**Illiteracy among women in the country**

849. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of illi teracy among women in the country, what are the new educational oppor tunities being extended to them for the removal of this large scale illi teracy; and

(b) the state-wise progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K MENON): (a) The illiteracy rate of women in the country according to 1981 census is 75.18 per cent. Some of the strategies initiated to promote women's education throughout the country, with emphasis on rural and tribal areas, include the following: —

(i) Mahalia Samakhya: The basic thrust of this programme is to create mechanisms whereby women are given an opportunity to plan and monitor their own education and reach out to a new body of knowledge. It aims at involving women in the process of educational planning at the village level and providing educational inputs like non-formal education training of school teachers and production of educational material. This project has been launched in 10 districts, each of Gujarat and Karnataka and 4 of Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) Non-formal Education: Ninety per cent assistance is released for running of Non-Formal Education Centres for girls in the 10 Educationally backward states.

(iii) Adult Education; Specific steps taken to enlarge coverage of women in adult education programme include:—

— Mobilisation of women lear ners in large numbers for ensuring enrolment of at least 50 per cent women in adult education centres;

—appointment of large numbers of women adult education functionaries such as Instructors and Preraks, even by relaxing the minimum qualifications;

—involvement of a large number of voluntary agencies especially those working for women;

—more attention by Shramik Vidyapeeths to women workers;

—special orientation and training of women Instructors as effective agents for promoting women's equality;

—provision of opportunities for retention of literacy skills and application of learning for improving their living conditions;

—involvement of Central and State Social Welfare Boards with adult education programme; and

—production of films on female literacy and empowerment and their telecast through Doordar-shan.

(b) According to information received from State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, 231.161 lakh women were enrolled under adult education programme during the VII Five Year Plan (upto 31-12-89). A statement showing the statewise enrolment during this period is attached.

Statement

| Sl.No. | State/UTS | Enrolment |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 8,05,280 |
| *2* | Arunachal Pradesh | 66,430 |
| **3** | **Assam** | 6,66,952 |
| **4** | Bihar | 25.18.287 |
| 5 | Goa | 7,501 |
| 6 | Gujarat | 11,53,937 |
| 7 | Haryana | 7,17,747 |
| 8 | Himachal Pradesh | 1,51,162 |
| 9 | Jammu & Kashmir | 1,78,921 |
| 10 | Karnataka | 9,30,291 |
| 11 | Kerala | 1,44,574 |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 19,74,650 |
| 13 | Maharasthra | 23,77,200 |
| 14 | Manipur | 1,29,516 |
| 15 | Meghalaya | 37,792 |
| 16 | Mizoram | 22,554 |
| 17 | Nagaland | 56,697 |
| 18 | Orissa | 5,87,669 |
| 19 | Punjab | 5,36,663 |
| 20 | Rajasthan | 10,83,057 |
| 21 | Sikkim | 17,731 |
| 22 | Tamil Nadu | 30,59,530 |
| 23 | Tripura | 99,396 |
| 24 | Uttar Pradesh | 31,87,010 |
| 25 | West Bengal | 11,06,505 |
| 26 | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 13,772 |
| 27 | **Chandigarh** | 14,115 |
| 28 | Dadra *&* Nagar Haveli | 9,389 |
| **29** | **Daman &** Diu | 1,066 |
| 30 | Delhi | 4.14.116 |
| 31 | Lakshadweep | 3,564 |
| 32 | Pondicherry | 43-255 |
| | | TOTAL |